(d) whether Government propose to hold an enquiry in this regard; if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (e) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) have reportedd that in April, 1992 a complaint was received that an allottee had not reported that in April, 1992 a complaint was looked into and it was found that some allotment letters had been handed over to a person identifying himself as a Personal Assistant of a Member of Parliament. An investigation has been carried out by BPCL and according to BPCL, *prima facie* no malafied intentions have been established. However, BPCL has decided that all priority letters for LPG connections will be despatched by Registered post only.

Flaring of Natural Gas

1020. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount and percentage of natural gas that flared up during January—March, 1991 and 1992 and the estimated loss incurred thereby ; and

(b) what specific steps were taken during 1991 and 1992 for increased utilisation of natural gas available from different oil fields, refineries and projects ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Approximately 1300 (27.5%) and 900 (19%) MMSCM of gas, valued at Rs. 170 crores and Rs. 124 crores in 1991 and 1992 respectively, at the selling prices current at the relevint time.

(b) ONGC's Gas Flaring Reduction Project is being implemented in the Western Offshore. Projects for reducing flaring of gas in Gujarat and Assam are also being implemented.

L. P. G. Dealers in Bombay

1021. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and address of L.P.G. dealers in Bombay city ;

(b) the number of L. P. G. customers allotted to each of these dealers ;

(c) what is the minimum time taken to provide a refill to a customer in the last twelve months ;

(d) what is the maximum time taken to provide a refill to a customer in the last twelve months ;

(e) what steps are being taken to provide a L. P. G. Refill to a customer within three hours of placing an order ;

(f) what steps are being taken to prevent malpractices in delivery of L. P. G. refills in Bombay ;

(g) what steps ire being taken to have equal number of customers with each L. P. G. dealer ; and

(h) the localities where L. P. G. dealerships are to be opened in Bombay in near future ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) As on 1-1-1992 there were 131 LPG distributorships in Bombay.

(b) and (g) The maximum number of gas connections fixed for an LPG Agency except to Co-operative Societies is determined on the basis of refill sales in various parts of the country including Bombay, where it is fixed at 8000 refill sale per month.

(c) to (f) The distributors are under instructions from he LPG marketing oil companies to supply refills promptly on demand on a first come first serve basis. Regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the field staff of oil companies.

(b) LPG distributorships are opened at differnt locations subject to product availability, economic viability, etc. under various Marketing Plans.

Extension of HBJ Pipeline

1022. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the HBJ pipeline has been completed and is working at its full capacity;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an extension and increase of capacity was foreseen in the year 1992;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not carrying out the extension; and

(e) whether it is a fact that, with regard to return on investment, the HBJ pipeline is a success?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e) The HBJ Pipeline is being operated at about 70% of its capacity.

No investment decision has been taken regarding upgradation of HBJ Pipeline capacity.

The pipeline has been earning profits but not to the extent envsaged in the Feasibility Report based on 100% capacity utilisation.

Refining of Crude by Madras Refinery

1023. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of expanding the Madras Refineries Limited to double its crude refining capacity;

(b) what is the toal estimate of the expansion scheme;

(c) whether the entire finance required is likely to be met by the public enterprise;

(d) whether here is any foreign agency's paricipation in the expansion scheme; and

(e) the Indian concerns which have been entrusted with the work of fabricating most of the refinery and other standards and machinery for the expansion alongwith the details thereof with the value of such work?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Presently, MRL is only increasing its refining capacity from 5.6 MTPA to 6.5 MTPA. This is expected to be completed by December, 1992.

(b) and (c) The estimated cost of expansion project is approximately Rs. 38.5 crores, which will be met by internal resources and borrowings.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Design and engineering has been done by M/s Engineers India Ltd. Orders for major equipments have been placed as follows:—

	Vendor	Approx. Valuc
1. Heat Exchangers .	BHPV	Rs. 3 crores.
2. Furnaces . . .	Different suppliers for different components	Rs. 15 crores.
3. Pumps . . .	BPCL, KSB Pumps	Rs. 1 crore.
4. Column Internals .	Topack Industries Bombay	Rs. 3 crores.